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Letter dated 14 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the situation in Burundi, issued on 11 August 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 14 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the situation in Burundi issued on 11 August 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union, which has always supported the democratic process in Burundi and which attaches great importance to the harmonious political and economic development of that country, has taken note with concern of the information it received from the Government of Burundi on 4 August 2006 regarding the preparation of a coup d'état on 30 June 2006.

The European Union has taken note of the assurances given by the Government of Burundi that the judicial investigations currently under way in this matter will be conducted in strict compliance with legal procedures, with transparency and with respect for human rights.

The European Union has also taken note of the Burundian Government's commitment to inform the international community without delay of the conclusions of that investigation.

The European Union would urge the Government of Burundi to shed light on the allegations of torture, to comply strictly with the laws in force regarding pre-trial detention and to guarantee free access for national and international human rights organizations to the persons apprehended, as it has undertaken to do.

More generally, the European Union would encourage the Government to continue the democratic process begun in Burundi in a spirit of national harmony, dialogue with the various political parties and cooperation with civil society. The European Union would also urge the Burundian authorities to ensure that human rights, including freedom of speech and of the press, are protected, and not to endanger political stability and the efforts towards economic and social reconstruction that have been made in order to safeguard the confidence of the international community.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.